NOTABLE MEN OF CARDIFF

By Wm. JOHNSTONE

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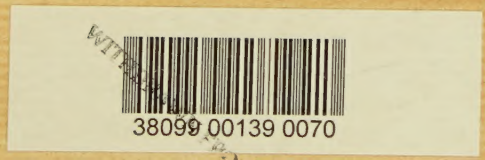
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NOTABLE MEN
OF CARDIFF

(FIRST SERIES)

BY

WILLIAM JOHNSTONE

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W. J. HUTCHINGS
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PREFACE.

THERE are, as Paul Nordan says, two views to take of every Man; there is the hostile view and the appreciative view. It has been my aim in writing the following sketches always to take a generous view of my subject, and in doing this I have found them all, in one way or other, possessed of unexpected good qualities. And I have tried also not to load the articles with too much biographical detail, but to show as much of the true character and personality of the man as possible. Those who take the trouble to read the article on Sir W. T. Lewis will see that I discover in him many rare and excellent qualities. From filling a trying position in life, circumstances have often forced him to take a side which many of the Labour leaders have insisted showed a lack of sympathy with the aspirations of the working classes, whereas the exact opposite is the case.

I must here state that I am indebted to my friend, F. J. Harries, Esq., of the *Cardiff Figaro*, for the loan of the photo-blocks 4, 5, 7, and 10, which I have used in the printing of this book.

I may say that I have composed the following pages at great disadvantage. I am suffering from a severe attack of hemiplegia, which entirely deprives me of any use of either of my hands, and it is entirely due to the kindness of my wife—who has taken down the articles at my dictation—that I am able to produce the book at all. I should like to say that, had death not intervened, the book would have included a sketch on that kindly, generous soul, Alderman Brain, who was so suddenly and unexpectedly taken from us. But, though the bowl is broken at the fountain, his spirit is still with us, ever encouraging us to higher work and nobler duty.

W. J.

CARDIFF,

April 3rd, 1903.

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ALDERMAN E. THOMAS, J.P.

Mayor of Cardiff, 1903.

(From a Photo by A. E. Smith, Queen Street, Cardiff.)

CHAPTER I.

ALDERMAN EDWARD THOMAS, J.P., MAYOR OF CARDIFF.

LDERMAN E. THOMAS would have been a notable man in any walk of life. He is one of the youngest, if not the youngest, man who ever filled the position of Mayor of Cardiff. And to this social elevation he has raised himself by his own industry and straightforwardness of character. He is a man of unique ability and endless tact. His heart qualities are, I am happy to say, on a par with those of his head.

All through the years of Ald. Thomas's public life he has been gradually winning his way in the public esteem, till there is

no man held in greater confidence by persons of all shades of religious and political thought. But let it be said, in the first place, that Alderman Thomas is a Welshman—a lover of his country who has laboured and spent as few have for the land of his birth. Like all genuine Welshmen, he is a man of religious impulse, from which nothing will swerve him. Till he reached his thirteenth or fourteenth year he had no acquaintance with any language but the Welsh. To him English is not a natural, but an acquired language, and his mastery of it, as seen in his journalistic work, has become very ready and ample.

During the time he has been a member of the Cardiff Corporation he has shown a mastery of detail in all municipal affairs equalled by no other member of that Board. For many years he was one

of the leading spirits of that aggressive body, the Cardiff Junior Liberal Association, and it was, doubtless, largely due to the genial and broad spirit he displayed in his official connection with the Association that in the fulness of time his name, to the surprise of many snobs, was placed on the Commission of the Peace for the Borough. And in this position Ald. Thomas has displayed a spirit of mercy and fairplay equalled by no other Cardiff Magistrate. But

> "The quality of mercy is not strained.
> It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven
> upon the place beneath.
> It is twice blessed.
> It blesseth him who gives, and him who
> takes.
> 'Tis mightiest in the mightiest, etc."

And Ald. Thomas's quality of mercy is a further evidence of his great natural strength of character, and fitness for his

present exalted position. As Mayor of the Borough he has begun his year of office well, and I doubt not, when he lays aside the golden chain he will have added a new dignity to the position that no predecessor has surpassed, and that it will be hard for his successors to reach the same high watermark.

The present Mayor of Cardiff is a man of unique ability, and he has in the past, by his broad common-sense, given new force and splendour, in the eyes of all men, to the Welsh character.

Ald. Thomas is a man who has the rare gift of taking a kindly view of the work and motives of others, and who himself never says a wrong word, or in public life makes a false move. Though not claiming to be an orator, he yet has the faculty of always using the right words and making his meaning clear and con-

cise. He has, during the last twelve years, been in the thick of many a political contest, and has been in the forefront of every Welsh forward movement.

Ald. Thomas has, during his public life, been a member of all the various college and other councils for the furtherance of Welsh educational matters, and his work and attention in this connection are most highly spoken of by those best able to judge. But it would occupy too much space to tell of all that Ald. Thomas has done for the public life, and for his native Wales. It will be enough to say that he has failed in no phase of work that he has taken up. Having himself, in his early days, laboured with his hands, he has much sympathy with the hard lot of the toiling multitudes, and no man in Cardiff has done more to improve the condition of

the working-classes. All through the years he has sat on the Borough Council, he has ever been careful of the rights and interests of labour. He is one of our best known and most popular Magistrates, all the duties of which office he discharges with painstaking fidelity and exactitude. And in all the relations of life he is a liberal-minded, good-acting man, thoroughly trustworthy, and one who in all the affairs of life will ever show himself as he really is—a large-hearted, honest man.

Mrs. Thomas is a daughter of the late Rev. Richard Hughes (Tremrudd), of Maesteg, one of the most noted and eminent preachers of the Welsh Baptist pulpit. During her six years' residence in Cardiff she has made hosts of friends, and made herself also indispensable to her husband in his public life and work.

MADAM H. HUGHES-THOMAS,

The Mayoress, 1903

She is a kindly-spirited, genial-hearted lady, with a ready alacrity in every good work that is very fascinating. As a teacher of music she is well known, and she is admitted to be one of the most competent in the district. Her success with backward pupils is very marked, and she will yet do much valuable work in the musical profession.

I wish the Mayor and Mayoress a hearty God-speed in the discharge of the important duties which fall to their lot. In public work, Alderman E. Thomas is one of the most competent and thorough men that I know.

CHAPTER II.

THE RIGHT HON. LORD TREDEGAR.

THERE is no more popular and admirable landowner in South Wales than Lord Tredegar. During the twenty-eight years or more that he has held the estate he has made himself most beloved by all his numerous tenantary. And this is as it should be. He is a wise, prudent, good-acting landowner. He seems to have made it his duty as the lord of broad acres to make himself acquainted with the responsibilities of his great trust; and has always discharged his great and exacting duties in a humane and considerate way. Indeed, so much so that he leads us to say :—

> "Earth would never reach its worst,
> Were one in fifty such as he."

He has played his part nobly and well. To the struggling farmers he has ever been a kindly and bountiful landowner, and to the town of Cardiff he is a most generous benefactor. It is only a few years ago that he gave a handsome site, free of charge, for the Splott Free Library, and the other week he presented the town with some sixty acres for the formation of a public park for the residents of Splott. But these are only two of the many timely and charitable acts he has done. In the words of Tennyson he has

> "Served the poor, and built the cottage,
> Raised the school, and drained the fen."

And not only does his management of his estate win the admiration of all, but he also stands high in the esteem of the nation as a nobleman, who in all the relations of life does his duty nobly and

well. And he has a great history behind him. He is one of the few survivors of the noble "six hundred" who played so heroic a part in the ever memorable "Charge of the Light Brigade" in the Crimea.

"When can their glory fade?"

Not surely as long as our history endures.

Lord Tredegar was born at Ruperra Castle on the 28th of April, 1831. In 1854, as I have said, he fought in the famous Balaclava Charge and was the Member for Breconshire from 1858 to 1875. His estate comprises 40,000 acres, and this vast patrimony, as I have said, is most wisely conducted in the agricultural interests. But now in his mature age, though he has still the enthusiasm of youth, he must often think of his great exploit in one of our most notable and heroic battles. For—

"One day of glorious strife
Is worth an age, without a name."

But still the more serious reflection must often come to his mind:—

"Gone the comrades of my bivouac,
Some in fight against the foe,
Some through pain and slow diseases
Gone, as all on earth will go."

It is now about fifty years since he came hale and unwounded out of the terrible tragedy of the Crimea, and though some one had blundered, the Charge of the Light Brigade showed that the British soldier is invincible still.

In public matters he has much spirit and enterprise, but he is ever kindly and considerate of the thoughts and aspirations of others. He, for a time, very kindly filled the office of President of the South Wales University College, and in this way he showed his warm prac-

tical interest in our higher educational matters. In this way also he showed a noble example worthy of the highest emulation. But Lord Tredegar is a good man. Through all the years of his responsible life he has never failed in his public duty, but seems always to have thought first of the good and welfare of others, and has in this way won our warmest esteem. He is ever hearty, genial, approachable, and full of the milk of human kindness, with a heart that feels for every woe. He is a loyal member of the Church, but being a broad-minded man he takes a kindly, helpful interest in all denominations, and is ever ready to assist a struggling cause. The friend and patron of the poor, as every nobleman ought to be, he has made a name for himself for kindly generosity which is the highest virtue,

and which will long be remembered to his great honour.

Lord Tredegar is still a young-looking man with a smart, well-knit figure, and on his face there are traces of ancient blood and long descent. But no words of ours would sufficiently praise this good and really excellent man. He has in him all the qualities that we look for in one of our noblemen, and he has also much of that *bonhomie* which we all so much admire. His alert graceful figure is well known not only on the streets of Newport, but in Cardiff also there are few better known and more beloved than he. He is a man to all the country dear, and "Still he holds without abuse the grand old name of gentleman," and I hope he will still be a long time with us, for it is hard to think we will never see his like again.

CHAPTER III.

SIR WILLIAM THOMAS LEWIS, Bart.

Sir William Thomas Lewis is the most notable personage in South Wales. There is no other of such commanding knowledge in the Welsh coalfield; and indeed, in the coalfields of the world, there is no name that stands higher than his. This envied position Sir William has attained by that force of character which through life he has steadily practised with splendid results. A portion of his recent success may, to some extent, be due to the commanding influence accruing to the position he attained twenty years ago (and which he has maintained and improved) as manager of the Bute South Wales estates after

twenty-six years' service as civil and mining engineer to the Bute and other estates. He is a son of the late Mr. Thomas Lewis, who was, in his day, a mechanical engineer, and a very notable man he was.

Sir William was born at Merthyr Tydfil in 1837, and after being educated at Taliesin's school, which was then the best school in the district, he was apprenticed at the age of thirteen to his father, when he devoted himself to his work in the pattern shop, the foundry, the fitting shop, the drawing office, and then to underground colliery work for five years, after which he obtained the appointment of assistant engineer to Mr. W. S. Clark, then engineer of the Bute estate, Bute Docks, and railways and collieries in the Rhondda Valley. Fifty years of hard work and exceptional activity might be

expected to leave their mark on any man, and Sir William's well-knit figure, and strong, kindly face, bear many traces of that wear and tear, of storm and worry, which must be met with in such a career. But he is a man of iron constitution, undaunted courage, and unbending will, and the amount of work he does in connection with the many huge enterprises with which he is identified and in which his is the master mind, is a marvel to most men. As one example of his power may be mentioned the great success that has attended his management of the Welsh estates, collieries, docks, and railways of Lord Bute, although in this connection his career has been anything but a bed of roses. One dispute after another has occurred among the workmen in this district in connection with its leading industries during the past third of a

century, and on behalf of the employers, who have always relied on Sir William, the main brunt of the quarrel has invariably fallen upon his shoulders, for his firm and unflinching will has generally been held to be the key to the whole position. No man who has formed anything like a correct estimate of Sir William's character will doubt that in all the bitter Labour conflicts of the past he has always been guided by a high sense of justice, his motto being "Do thy duty come what may," for he is a man of heart as the controlling ideas of his busy and prolific life abundantly show. For many years he was foremost in assisting with his services and advice the work of exploration and relief in connection with the frequent colliery disasters in South Wales, such as those at Ferndale, Risca,

Abercarne, New Tredegar, Mardy, Dinas, Abernant (inundation), Tylorstown, &c., and many similar incidents in his life in connection with colliery accidents reveal the true character of the man.

All through the mining perils from explosions and inundations of the years which have followed, there has been no man whose action has inspired so much hope and comfort as that of Sir William. When heroic work had to be done he has ever been the fearless, dauntless explorer, shunning no personal risks which might secure his object. For Sir William is a man capable of deeds which, from their unselfish nature, we are ready to call heroic. Thoroughness is as great a characteristic of his as his unremitting industry, and very often he works nights as well as days for many periods when pressing matters of business require it.

He is possessed of that firm, strong nature which knows nothing of defeat. It is one of those conquering natures which has in it force sufficient to mould all things to the will of its possessor, so that his career has been one distinguished by triumph after triumph.

While, however, Sir William has by his great industrial talents and forcefulness of character won the homage of the multitude, he has also done much by those gifts of the heart which he possesses so largely. In addition to his wide knowledge and scientific skill, he has the rare faculty of always appearing at his ease in all circumstances, and in every case of genuine suffering or affliction there is no one more ready to give assistance. He is truly the friend in need ever to be relied upon. For while he is in no sense a professional philanthropist,

there are few who in the practice of daily life do more in a ready, hearty way for the relief of all kinds of genuine and unavoidable distress; and those who know him in this way cannot understand the light in which he is held by those Labour leaders who have come in conflict with him on some issue in which the working-men are concerned. There is no man more faithful to his trust than Sir William, and no man with greater discretion and absolute sense of justice, and not for popular applause or any other consideration will he yield one iota of his position when he has made up his mind that it is right. He is a man the clearness of whose head is understood only by a few, and what has often been urged as the hardness of his nature is in reality an evidence of his great sense of fairness. The greatness

of his heart, however, can be seen in the splendid work he did for the suffering survivors of colliery explosions in the days when organized efforts were few and of little practical effect.

Sir William is the sixth generation of the Lewis family who have been engaged in developing South Wales minerals since 1750.

After serving his apprenticeship in general engineering he selected mining engineering as his path in life at a time when various promising avenues were open to him. This was when the old order of little skill and less scientific knowledge prevailed in the management of mines. Sir William has worked a transformation. From the day he devoted his energies and his skill to mining engineering the old order began to pass away. A new era was introduced. Henceforth

the raising of coal was performed in a more scientific manner and under improved conditions, which have been felt over the coalfields of the world.

Before Sir William had reached his thirtieth year he was acknowledged by his elders, and even by his rivals, to be an engineer of commanding knowledge of the geology of the coalfield and of the practical conditions of safe and successful colliery operations.

No other man has appeared in our coalfields with such vast capacity for work, and to the industrial development of South Wales Sir William's value has been priceless. When his great personality is at length removed from among us—and may that day be far distant—it will be felt even in the interests of the toiling multitudes how great his services have been.

Sir William is a king among men. The story of his life has about it a wonderful fascination. It has been a life of noble purpose. No difficulty has been allowed to thwart his aims. From earliest boyhood he has been a great reader of biographical literature, which has given him a larger knowledge of human life and character, and while broadening his mind, this has doubtless at the same time incited and encouraged him to meet with splendid confidence the inevitable rebuffs and disappointments of life, and in this way the story of his career is of endless benefit to our aspiring young men. As already stated, what he has achieved is the result of long, patient toil and strong endeavour. While a class of small-minded aspirants have found their opposition of little avail against the strong personality of Sir William, many

a man who has achieved a coveted place in the world of engineering, music, literature, or art, is ever ready to admit his debt of gratitude to Sir William for his timely and kindly help, for he is ever ready to discover true talent.

Sir William has also ever been true to the land of his birth, and we regard him as the best patriot Wales has produced in the nineteenth century.

When Sir William offered himself for the Parliamentary representation of the Merthyr Boroughs he was pitted against Henry Richards, a subtle, conniving man of some smartness, but of much less strength and force of character, and who, at the time, was in the enjoyment of marvellous popularity. Sir William would undoubtedly have become a great figure in the House of Commons, but what the public lost through his non-

election we are hopeful will in some way be made up by his legislative work on some future occasion. The "Sliding Scale," a scheme entirely of Sir William's own creation (although many others have tried to claim the credit for it) and for twenty years under his guidance, played a great part in the pacific regulation of miners' earnings in South Wales. And although from his position he has almost constantly been fighting the workmen's representatives, all of them rely implicitly upon what he says, and they readily acknowledge that he always fulfils his promises regardless of consequences—in fact, he is a gentleman whose word is his bond. Sir William's connection with the Monmouthshire and South Wales Permanent Provident Fund, which will always be associated with his name, has thrown a beautiful light on the

humane and lovable traits of his character.

He has sat on a number of Royal Commissions on various mining problems extending over fourteen years, and the services he has been able to give have been of great national value. In 1885, her late Majesty, in recognition of his surpassing public worth, of his position in the mining world, and of his services to the whole field of labour, conferred on him the honour of knighthood, which eleven years later was supplanted by a baronetcy. There is no other man in this coal basin who has striven so hard to

"Climb the steep
Where Fame's proud temple shines afar."

Sir William has filled the chair of and held various honorary positions on the different engineering societies in the kingdom. He is an omnivorous reader,

has a keen taste in art, and is much travelled, not only on the continent of Europe, but also in the East as well as the West, in Canada and the United States. He also knows the mountains and valleys of Italy and Norway, almost as well as those of his own native Wales.

It is only a man of master mind who could control with such unerring exactitude the interminable details with which he has to deal.

As Smiles justly remarks, "Men of genuine excellence in every station of life—men of industry, of integrity, of high principle, of sterling honesty of purpose—command the homage of mankind. It is natural to believe in such men, to have confidence in them, and to imitate them," and Wales believes in Sir William, Welshmen all the world over have confidence in him, and who shall

say how many promising young Welshmen of to-day have found his career helpful and inspiring?

Sir William has through life been a hard worker and is so still, there is no man in our busy valleys who applies himself to all his duties with more spirited valour. For many years South Wales has taken a leading part in the industrial world, and there is no man that stands higher, or who has shown a better example to all enterprising, pushing, young men. He has shown that while "Knowledge is a steep which few may climb, Duty is a path which all may tread."

The life of Sir William should be studied by all. It is the record of a notable, honourable, and successful career, which has been wisely devoted to the welfare of his country and the good of his fellow-men. His has been a long

and determined effort to promote a kindlier feeling between employers and employed. It has been his aim—and it is a noble aim—to establish a reign of industrial peace. Wales has during the last decade produced many strong-willed, resolute-acting, clear-headed, vigorous-minded, indomitable men, but to Sir William we can truly say: Thou art the noblest Roman of them all.

SIR EDWARD JAMES REED, K.C.B., M.P.

Our Member.

CHAPTER IV.

SIR EDWARD JAMES REED, K.C.B., M.P.

SIR E. J. REED is one of the gamest birds in the Imperial cock-pit. And he is of equal calibre on the public platform. There are few amongst our politicians who can expound their views with such commanding eloquence and telling fascination. Nor have I ever met with one, who, on all occasions, is always the Englishman first — ever loyal to his country — the party man following a long way after. By his natural gifts he has a strong poetic fancy, which I have frequently heard him use with telling effect. During the sixteen years I have publicly known Sir Edward, I have ever found him one of the most reliable,

loyal-hearted, and most widely informed of men. Though he is still a youthful-looking, alert-minded gentleman, he has already passed seventy years of much hard, uphill work, and strong endeavour, since he first saw the light in Sheerness. Of all the Welsh representatives there are none so vigorous and loyal as Sir Edward, and no one so careful of the interests of his constituents. As a naval architect there is no name in this country stands higher than his, and no naval constructor ever added more handsome, fine-looking vessels to the British navy. He has travelled all over Europe and America, and is a naval constructor for most of the European Governments. Indeed, in his own profession of naval constructor there is no name in Europe stands higher than his. But it is in the

political field we know him best. For the last twenty years he has been a commanding figure there. Cardiff will never have such another member. This was seen when Mr. Maclean, the Conservative member, displaced him for one Parliament. It was then seen, for the benefit of Cardiff, how great was Sir Edward's influence in high quarters, and how essential was that influence to the advancement of the commercial interests of Cardiff. There is no other man who could so well represent a great shipping port like this, but I am afraid that his services, like those of others, have not been appraised at their true value by his party.

Otherwise he would long ere now have received the reward to which his eminent services and distinguished position so justly entitled him. But he is one of

those who have suffered for their political faith. Again and again there have been numerous opportunities of advancing him to that position over the Admiralty for which his training and national attainments have so splendidly fitted him. But in this, as in many other matters, Mr. Gladstone, with all his great abilities, fell short. He failed to see, or if he did see he had not the courage to put in practice and place Sir Edward chief of the Admiralty. No doubt the truth is Mr. Gladstone had too many aristocratic hangers-on needing a thousand pounds or so, wherever it could be picked up, honestly or otherwise, to allow him to recognise Sir Edward's great qualifications for the position and the gain it would have been to the nation for him to be at the head of the Admiralty. But Sir Edward

has been rewarded by the confidence of the nation, and especially by the constituents of Cardiff. A few years ago he was, after many years' service, displaced from the representation of Cardiff by Mr. J. M. Maclean, who had adopted the bogus clubs as his chief method of fighting. This illegal means had its immediate success. Sir Edward, after twenty years, was ousted from the representation. But:—

"Truth crushed to earth will rise again,
The eternal years of God are hers;
But error wounded writhes in pain,
And dies amid its worshippers."

But:—

"Round and round we run,
And ever the truth comes uppermost,
And ever is justice done."

And so in course of time Mr. Maclean's supporters crumbled away into thin air,

and Sir Edward, uniting all the Liberal forces, led them once more in solid phalanx to supreme victory. And Sir Edward is now once more the trusted Member for Cardiff, as I hope he will be for many a long day.

Sir Edward is the father of Mr. E. T. Reed, the clever cartoonist of *Punch*, who is well known for his inimitable sketches and artistic drawings, not only in Cardiff, but all over the country. Sir Edward has himself done some excellent literary work, but it is chiefly in the line of a naval architect that his great life work has been done; and in this connection he has made the acquaintance of many of the most prominent crowned heads in Europe, and many good stories he has to tell of these strange characters. Sir Edward is a most interesting man, and his fund of anecdote is unending. I

know of no gentleman in the House of Commons of greater geniality and buoyancy of spirit. He was at one time an extensive landowner in Florida, and he may be so still. I wish him good luck in all his undertakings, for he is a real broad-minded, true-spirited, gentlemanly man, who can acquit himself well in all the relations of life. He has made by force his merit known, and though he has passed the allotted span of human life, I trust he has yet many days of health and the realization of his fondest dreams before him. He is one of the men of whom we are all proud, and why should he not realize his golden honours? No man has served the Liberal party better, nor is there any man of distinction to whom fewer rewards have been given. In bidding him adieu I can only express the hope

that we will long have him as our representative, for Cardiff will never be represented by so clever, so influential, so well-informed, and so good a man. He has long held the premier position as the representative of a Welsh constituency, but never once has he swerved from his loyalty to the supreme Government of England.

SIR ALFRED THOMAS, M.P.,
Bronwydd, Cardiff.

CHAPTER V.

SIR ALFRED THOMAS, M.P.

SIR ALFRED THOMAS was born at Llwyn-y-grant, but it was only an accident of circumstance that he was not born in Monmouth instead of Glamorgan. But a Glamorgan man he is, and there all his years have been lived, and all the good work of his life has been laboured. Years ago, when he was a young man, he became a member of the Tabernacle Chapel, in the Hayes, and there ever since he has been a faithful and loyal supporter, and largely to this healthy connection he, doubtless, owes much of the good stimulus of his life. He began his real public career as the representative of Roath on the Cardiff Council, and

there he did a highly efficient work. When the opportunity occurred he accepted, out of the ordinary rota, the Mayoralty of the Borough, a position which he filled with such splendid hospitality that after nearly twenty years he is still named as the best Chief Magistrate who ever honoured the town of Cardiff. But not only was he an alert and valuable municipal representative; there was yet greater work ahead for him. He had already become a wealthy man; and when the Parliamentary representation of the county was divided, Mr. Thomas was elected for the Eastern Division, and in that capacity he has done a work and attained a position to which no other Welsh member can lay claim. He it was who at the right moment succeeded in removing that arrogant impost, the Glamorgan Tolls;

and most of my readers will remember how near the close of the eighties he tackled our oppressive Poor Law system, for which he proposed a number of valuable and far-reaching remedies. He visited most of our leading centres of population and expounded the nature of his proposals in a series of clear and lucid addresses. A little later he formulated a Bill for the broadening of the Welsh constitution, and though he threw his whole energy into the matter he only succeeded in showing the people that under the glove of velvet he concealed the hand of iron. So far as I am aware, his Welsh Constitution Bill has as yet in no way become law, chiefly, I think, owing to the divided opinions of the populace. But his Poor Law reform proposals have all been adopted by a Conservative Government and

embodied in law which is now in force all over the country. Sir Alfred Thomas really did bestir himself in this matter. In addition to his lucid addresses, of which I have spoken, he drafted a series of searching questions on the matter of Poor Law administration and sent them to each Board of Guardians in England and Wales. These questions, as I can testify, elicited a mass of information of which Sir Alfred is the sole possessor. And through all the years of his very active work he was ever the same ready, genial-hearted man, willing to hear all claims, and to give redress if it were possible. For I should like to say that within my knowledge there is no man with a bigger heart and a more willing ear to listen to all tales of distress. But his chief quality as a Member of Parliament is, I think,

his ready instinct in determining the right course to take; for, since he entered the House of Commons, now nearly twenty years ago, there have risen many party questions which have shipwrecked many members with greater pretensions to ballast than Sir Alfred. This only shows his mental astuteness, and how he may be trusted ever to steer for the open sea of Liberalism; and, in addition to his other qualities, lays fresh emphasis on his qualifications for the position of a Welsh leader, a post which he now admirably fills to the satisfaction of all. For there has been no Welsh leader previous to Sir Alfred who has given such universal gratification. He has been firm, far-seeing, and genial in all his dealings. But I think that, though he has shown great astuteness in his Parliamentary life and

work, his chief claim to our recognition will lie in his educational work. He was one of the first—if not the first—generous donors of £1,000 to the South Wales University College, and ever since he has taken a warm, practical interest in that noble institution. His goodness to educational matters is far-reaching, and I should say that he now fills the honoured position of President of the South Wales University College in succession to such notable predecessors as the late Lord Aberdare, the late Lord Bute, and Lord Tredegar, and his qualities for this position have been amply justified by his loyalty to the College and the value of his service generally.

Sir Alfred Thomas is, in the estimation of all men, highly appraised for his goodness of heart, and there are few men,

indeed, who more splendidly discharge their duties in life than Sir Alfred. He is a good acting, wise, discreet man in all the affairs of life, and will leave a name behind him much beloved. For :—

> "The actions of the just smell sweet ; and blossom in the dust."

In Wales there are some more excitable and fervent orators, but no one who has a more sincere regard for the truth, or one who will at all times and in all circumstances stand up for the truth regardless of all costs. The King never did a more popular act than when he elevated Sir Alfred to the degree of knighthood. Long may he live to wear his well-merited honour.

RICHARD CORY, ESQ., J.P.

Cardiff.

CHAPTER VI.

RICHARD CORY, ESQ., J.P.

THERE are few men in the public life of Cardiff of more true goodness of heart and of greater force of character than Mr. Richard Cory. He spent the most vigorous years of his life in busy commercial work at our docks, and there is no one who has attained a more honourable and enviable position in the public esteem of Cardiff than he; and few indeed whose commercial life has been crowned with such marvellous success.

Much of Mr. Cory's success, and the success of the eminent firm in which all through his business years he was one of the chief partners, is largely due to that sanguine, energetic temperament which

has borne him triumphantly through all the difficulties of life; he has ever been truly a man diligent in business and fervent in spirit, as all who know him can testify.

Mr. Richard Cory first saw the light in the town of Bideford, in February, 1830; he has thus passed the allotted span of human life. Still, to all appearance, he retains the vigour and energy of a man many years younger. He has the elastic step of many a man of sixty. This admirable quality is doubtless due to that life of scrupulous temperance in all things which he has lived, and of which he is the most notable example in Cardiff. He belongs to that valiant band of social reformers who are ever true to the purity of their cause; and in the power and sincerity of that saving faith he has evinced a noble life, and

fought the battle of the weak against the strong. In the bosom of his own family he has much true happiness, and experiences, as few men do, the sweet rewards of a well-spent life of Godliness.

Mr. Cory has a burning zeal for the spread of the Christian faith. He believes that Christianity is a cure for "all the ills that flesh is heir to," and there are few men who, at personal inconvenience, have done more to give living practice to their zeal. It is no uncommon thing to meet him in some of the lowest streets in Cardiff, at the bed-side of the poor and the sick, with God's Word and prayer to comfort, and his purse to show practical sympathy. In this and other ways he scatters much of his wealth, and much of his spare time is thus occupied. I believe that among the poor and suffering of Cardiff there is no name

held in higher esteem than that of Mr. Richard Cory.

He is a man of much courage, and never shrank from any cause because it was new or because its followers were only few, but with that fine spirit of chivalrous daring for which he is noted, he has gone forward, heedless who followed, if he felt convinced that he was in the right. And in his faith that the religion of Christ will heal all the wounds of the world he carries on his work, regardless of fear or favour, with the enthusiasm of a man convinced. He is ever in the thickest of every good fight.

"Press where you see my white plume shine,
Amid the serried ranks of war,
And in the thickest of the fight
You'll find the helmet of Navarre."

He is a man of generous impulse, and is a ready contributor to every notable and

good cause. But he is so careful of really good work, that the greater portion of his heart work is concealed from the public life. Though he has spent much of his time and money in work for his adorable Master, he has yet found time during the last quarter of a century to faithfully discharge many of the important civic duties of life. For twenty-five years he sat on our Town Council, where, as is well known, he did a valuable and lasting work. He also is a Magistrate, and was for long a member of our Board of Guardians, where his kindly acts of charity showed him in the noblest light. Mercy and sympathy has ever been the aim of his life, and believing that "the quality of mercy is not strained," he has tried to do good by every means at his command. He has relieved the needy, fed the hungry,

assisted widows and orphans, and made life possible to those who were weak without a helper.

He did greatly the commercial work of his life as one of the founders of the famous firm in which he is a partner. During his more active years he visited many important cities and ports abroad and at home, establishing business relations and connections. These still remain a testimony to his intrepidity and business enterprise. Mr. Cory is a member of the Baptist Church at Tredegarville, and largely supports his own and other Nonconformist denominations, also Spurgeon's Orphanage and similar institutions. In politics he is an ardent Liberal. When Home Rule was proposed for Ireland in 1886 he could not accept that panacea as agreeable with the Protestant faith which he held, and

parted from his great political leader, Mr. Gladstone, and party, rather than accept it. Being then in the full vigour of health, and at the height of his great popularity, he was selected as the Unionist candidate for South Glamorgan; but the Government contracts with his firm not permitting of this procedure, he had to retire. For some years he kept in line with the Unionists, but at length, in 1893, he considered Home Rule dead, and returned to his old Liberal party, by whom he was received with a glad welcome. But why need I give all the details of a life which is known to us all. He is a patron and large supporter of Dr. Barnardo's and other institutions for destitute children.

He is a warm supporter of the Evangelical faith, and has, in past years, entertained many of its most prominent

leaders. He has had many hard trials in life to endure, and many sorrows to bear, but these have only sweetened his truly Christian character. And he may bear in mind that God will smile on his work, and sustain him in the hardest trials of life.

"Truth for ever on the scaffold,
Wrong for ever on the throne;
But that scaffold sways the future
And, behind the dim unknown,
Standeth God within the shadow,
Keeping watch above His own."

CLIFFORD J. CORY, ESQ., J.P., D.L.,
Cardiff.

CHAPTER VII.

CLIFFORD J. CORY, ESQ., J.P., D.L.

Mr. Clifford J. Cory has all those characteristics which are essential to the high standard of a successful public man. The son of Mr. John Cory, who has contributed so much to the making of Cardiff, Mr. Clifford retains all the best qualities of that noble man; in some respects Mr. Clifford's qualities are of even greater excellence, and that is saying much. He adds to a charm of manner the fascination of commanding public gifts and keen intellectual talents, of which he has given many proofs. He has trained a naturally alert mind, both by observation and by reading, till to-day there is no man amongst the merchants of

Cardiff who can compare with him in those solid qualities which give such splendid promise for the future. He has already shown his taste for a Parliamentary career and loyalty to his party by fighting the Division of South Monmouth at a time when Liberal opinion was on the ebb-tide. Mr. Clifford Cory improved the position of things from the Liberal standpoint by largely reducing his opponent's previous majority. At the last General Election he proved himself an equally strong candidate in the Liberal forlorn hope of Tunbridge Wells, and showed that he was a man to be reckoned with. Mr. Cory has such a clear grasp of public questions, and a facility in making his meaning understood, that the day must be near when he will find his way into the House of Commons. There are few men in

the country who, by their training and experience, are so well qualified for one of our legislators. And he has, by the benevolent work and sacrifices of his life, won the warm esteem and admiration of us all.

When Ritualism was threatening to submerge the country there was no man who took up a nobler stand in defence of our old Protestant faith nor one who was prepared to make greater sacrifices, and I doubt not but his accession to St. Stephen's would be like a breath of country air wafted through a dismal alley. There is no man in the House of Commons who, I believe, will make a nobler and braver stand in defence of the old landmarks of our Protestant faith. For he has proved himself a man to be relied on in the trial hour, and has that unconquerable

spirit which will fight for the right against all odds. Such a man, of this heroic temper, is greatly needed amongst our Members of Parliament, and I trust that into this position Mr. Clifford Cory will soon win his way. And I am hopeful that as a possible Liberal candidate for one of the Divisions of Cornwall his election is already assured. The Liberals of that Division may rest content that they have found a candidate of ample wealth, splendid commercial position, a widely-informed mind, sound opinion, and indomitable pluck. For I should like here to say, that Mr. Cory possesses what the old Latins called *suaviter in modo, fortiter in re*, and in daily life you will never find him morose nor austere, but of that gentle winning manner which conquers all hearts, and proves him to be a man of that stern genuineness who will remain

firm and true in every phase of life. Though he is a Welshman by birth, he on the principle of the old adage that "if a cow was born in a stable it wouldn't be a horse," belongs to the grand old country of North Devon, of which his father is a native and which has contributed so many valiant sons to the true adornment of our history. I trust Mr. Clifford Cory will prove himself another worthy to be added to the long list of Invincibles of whom we are all proud. He has already been thought of as the candidate both for Cardiff and South Glamorgan, and indeed I have heard his name mentioned for several other seats, but I trust that in one way or other he will show his many admirable qualities and will prove himself more than conqueror. Mr. Cory has in him qualities which will yet be recognized by the Liberal Govern-

ment. For he belongs to the aristocracy of commerce and of character, and is a large employer of labour, in thorough touch with the whole industrial world, and it seems to me that if we were to search the wide world over we could find no candidate possessing in himself so many high qualities essential to a seat in Parliament. Mr. Cory is a broad-minded, large-hearted, God-fearing man, who is ever equal to all personal requirements of life, and those who have tried his goodness are the most ready to admit that he is a good man.

Mr. Clifford Cory has excellent platform gifts, and a fulness of political knowledge equalled by very few. When he goes to the House of Commons we trust he will find ample scope to give effect to those high principles which he has in him. He has long sat as a repre-

sentative of the Ystrad Division on the Glamorgan County Council, where his services are most highly esteemed. He is also a Director of the Barry Railway Company, and is in all commercial matters a real prince. I may add that in works of practical charity he follows in the footsteps of his valued father, and that is saying much, for Mr. John Cory is the most large-hearted and truly Christian gentleman in Glamorgan. And what more shall I say? It would occupy too much space to enumerate all his many virtues:—

"Like some tall cliff—that midway leaves the storm,
Swells from the vale, and lifts its awful form;
Though rolling waves around his breast is spread,
Eternal sunshine settles on his head."

THOS. ANDREWS, ESQ., J.P., M.I.M.E.,

Cardiff. An ex-Mayor.

CHAPTER VIII.

THOMAS ANDREWS, Esq., J.P., M.I.M.E.

THOMAS ANDREWS, J.P., a native of Somerset, was for twelve years a member for Splott Ward of our Borough Council, has passed the Mayor's chair, and was last November re-elected to the Council by the largest majority ever recorded for any member. Immediately after, on account of failing health, and acting on medical advice, he had to withdraw from the Council and the valuable work he was doing for the town. For he was one of the strongest and most important of our Town Councillors and he is still spoken of in warm praise as one of the most resourceful men whom we ever had on our Town

Council. It is still remembered with thankfulness his Mayoral work of relieving our infirmary from debt. But for Mr. Andrews's timely interposition that valuable institution would have been overwhelmed. His appeal for support rang like a clarion note, and he soon found that there were many loyal hearts equally minded with himself, and in a few weeks the infirmary incubus had melted away. But, though his great infirmary work, which will always be remembered, was only a part of his public work, while Mayor he was Chairman of the Tramways Committee, and, being convinced of the advantages that would accrue to the town from the Corporation owning the trams, he led a fine crusade in favour of their purchase, which ultimately bore down all pettifogging opposition, and secured the trams to the

Corporation on very fair and workable terms. His scheme, which was large and generous, involved the relaying of all the tram rails, and the adoption of electricity as motive power. As a result, we have now a tram system which, for elegance, comfort, and convenience, is unsurpassed by any in the kingdom. And I trust the day is not far distant when the result of Mr. Andrews's far-seeing scheme will be found—as, with wise adaptations, it is bound to come in the trams—a richly-paying concern. And not only in this, but in all Corporation undertakings, Mr. Andrews was ever a prudent adviser. I trust that his retirement from the Council is only temporary, and that, with quickly and firmly-restored health, he will yet give many years to municipal work. Our growing town needs a man of such enter-

prise and clear-headedness in its administration; and I hope that Mr. Andrews, still strong in the public confidence, will be recalled to a representative position on our Town Council. This is the work for which nature has fashioned him, and we are all sanguine he will not err from the golden rule.

In removing the Infirmary debt, Mr. Andrews had to overturn many ancient methods and privileged abuses, and though one of the kindliest and most courteous of men, he had to take a firm, resolute stand before he could displace the influence of those well-meaning but ill-advised managers, who were rapidly bringing the Infirmary into a critical position. In the end it all became clear. Mr. Andrews was animated by a noble purpose that was bound to succeed, as all great purposes do, and in the end

he came out of the conflict with the praise of all good men.

Mr. Thomas Andrews is the proprietor of the well-known wagon works on the East Moors. He has been a resident in Cardiff for a long time, and his success has grown with the development of the town. He has a fine intellectual grip, and his keenly-sympathetic eye shows that he has a ready generosity and much power of observation. There are few men who have a more accurate and ready gift in reading character and estimating the motives and appraising the power of men with diplomatic finesse, and who are better informed and more widely read. Beyond all things, Mr. Andrews has the gift of success; everything he undertakes turns out well. He has attained an enviable position of commercial prosperity, and there is not a man amongst

us who can say that he has reached this height by any semblance of chicane practice. He is still the same genial-hearted man as he was in the days before prosperity had come, and I will say that in all the town of Cardiff there is no more fair-minded man, nor one who will deal more generously with his opponents. As he is still a young man full of passion and energy for work, we cannot believe that his municipal record has finally terminated, unless it be that he intends to take a seat in Parliament, for which he has great and strong gifts. He is a Liberal Imperialist in politics and an ardent supporter of Lord Rosebery, and I much doubt if that brilliant nobleman has a more clear-headed follower in all the kingdom. As is well known, Mr. Thomas Andrews takes a warm practical

interest in Freemasonry. About four years ago he was admitted to his 30th degree, and those who are acquainted with the mysteries of the order will see that he stands very near the top.

While on the Corporation Mr. Thomas Andrews was the pioneer of the Splott Free Library movement, and it was due to his rare tact and splendid enthusiasm that the scheme was carried to such a speedy and successful result. Mr. Andrews can well afford to laugh to scorn those few base libellers of the probity of his Corporation work. In my long experience of Cardiff I have never known anyone who has taken a more active and responsible part in the work of building up a great and well-governed municipality. During the years Mr. Andrews has sat on the Commission of the Peace he has done

a most humane and excellent work. He is a County Magistrate, and sits every month in the Dinas Powis Division at Barry.

Mr. Andrews is fortunate in having for his helpmate a lady of choice and refined tastes, who takes a keen interest in the important work which her clever husband performs and is herself prominent in the public eye. For the past few years she has taken an active share in the work of a Poor Law Guardian, and her services in that domain have been highly appreciated and have been of the most valuable character. The practical sympathy she has ever shown to the poor and distressed has won the hearts of the recipients of her bounty, and not very long ago an old inmate of Cardiff Workhouse executed a really artistic

address extolling the good deeds of Mrs. Andrews.

Mrs. Andrews filled the position of Mayoress with a graceful dignity that won the admiration of all, and the success that attended her efforts in that exalted position is still pleasantly remembered.

Mr. Thomas Andrews may, in a sense, be called a lucky man. He is happy in his home life, his business has been successful, and his municipal work is highly spoken of. He is a man born to succeed ; but success can only be accomplished by keeping his eyes on every new enterprise. As the American poet says:—

"New occasions teach new duties,
Time makes ancient good uncouth;
They must upward still and onward
Who would keep abreast of Truth."

We trust that that Truth will be Mr. Thomas Andrews's guide in the field he may select for the exercise of his surplus energies.

HON. D. T. PHILLIPS, U.S. CONSUL,
Cardiff.

CHAPTER IX.

THE HON. DANIEL T. PHILLIPS, F.R.G.S.

The Hon. D. T. Phillips, United States Consul at Cardiff, is one of those frank, genial, open-hearted men who make friends of everyone. During the six years he has been in Cardiff he has conducted, with rare discretion, the exacting duties of his office. Born at Tredegar in 1842, he came early to Cardiff, and was for a time the Sunday schoolmate of Sir Alfred Thomas, M.P.; and, though nearly as old as the Coronation Knight, he looks at least ten years younger.

Mr. Phillips is a loyal member of the Baptist denomination, and has through life followed the occupation of a pastor.

The style of his preaching smacks strongly, as may be expected, of the racy flavour of the American pulpit.

Mr. Phillips was, in his early years, placed to a commercial career, and showed much aptitude for learning the same, which, however, he did not follow for long. He soon made choice of the Baptist ministry, and spent a few diligent years at Haverfordwest College in qualifying himself for the curriculum of his denomination. His first charge was at Llantwit Major, where the young pastor is still kindly remembered by some of the older inhabitants. His next charge was at Bristol, where he laboured hard; and wooed and won the wife who has been to him a true helpmate through life. When he left Bristol it was to cross the sea and to take charge of an excellent Church in Philadelphia, for

which he had had a very pressing invitation. There it was that the true work of his life began. He threw himself with splendid energy into all the social movements of the great city, and made a name for himself that is still remembered there as an energetic, devoted, hard-working Christian pastor. He then served as pastor at Port Chester, Baltimore, and Chicago, where he did successful work, and where he has hosts of loyal friends. He early showed a rare tact and the possession of the orator's gifts, which he used to splendid advantage. But his true gift then, as now, was that of the heart, which he has never failed to use wisely and well. As Burns says :—

"The heart's aye the part aye
That makes us either right or wrong."

If you wish to make a successful

appeal to Mr. Phillips's sympathy, do not overlook his heart, for there the true strength of this excellent man lies; the true strength of any man must lie in the heart—for it is to the heart that we look for those forces which truly benefit mankind. I doubt not that in the days to come, as in the past, he will show the possession of his great gift to splendid advantage.

Mr. Phillips is a quick-brained, keen-witted, humorous-spirited man. He has a real poetic talent, which he has, at times, used to good effect. On important occasions, when his talent has been stirred, he has composed verses of real merit; and I trust he will yet bring his poetic compositions together in the form of a volume. His previous publications in the domain of prose show a real literary talent, which ought to be widely

appreciated. He was a most successful Eisteddfodic competitor, and he has many prizes to tell of his numerous triumphs in that field of dialectic skill. All these efforts were chiefly an expansion of his ministerial work, which he appraises very highly. And though his work at the Consulate requires talent of a high order of merit, it was in the pulpit that he ever showed his greatest gifts. But I should like to show Mr. Phillips exactly as he is.

He is a plump, firmly-built man of cordial manners, and a fine magnetic presence. It is due to this magnetism that he is able on occasions to wield so much power and influence; and it says much for Mr. Consul Phillips that after an absence from Wales of thirty years in the States he is still the same hearty, genial, kind-hearted Welshman

as though he had spent all his years amongst us.

When Mr. Phillips entered on the work of the United States Consulate at Cardiff he had to succeed men of tried ability, but I doubt if in all the long history of the U.S. Consulate at Cardiff there has ever been a consul who has served his Government with greater tact, loyalty, and ability than the Hon. Daniel T. Phillips, F.R.G.S., and there has surely been no one who has shown greater interest in the natives of his country who are stranded in Cardiff. In every good work with which his position does not clash he is ever a foremost man, and though now turned sixty years of age, he retains all the verve and vivacity of a man of forty, and I hope his days are yet numerous, for his is one of those lives which spread energy and goodness all

around. But let it not be said that all richness and force of character have been suddenly attained. Oh, no !

"Slowly moves the march of ages,
Slowly grows the forest king.
Slowly to perfection groweth
Every great and glorious thing."

Mr. Phillips is an ever loyal adherent and firm supporter of that valiant band of social reformers who, believing in the purity of their cause, labour on in much disappointment and adversity. Strong in his faith and believing in the ultimate victory of the right, he has never been afraid to stand alone and fight the battle of right against might. His has been a continual fight from the day of his birth at Tredegar until now. But his life has not been without its compensations. In the company of his sweetly dispositioned and affectionate wife he has had much

true happiness, and experiences more than most men the beautiful rewards of a well-spent life. He is a born leader of men, and though he may not have great confidence in his own ability, he has a true goodness of heart and a fine chivalrous spirit of moral daring. He has oft-times gone forward regardless of who followed if he was convinced that he was in the right, and his natural impulse, like that of all good and true men, is ever to take the side of the weak and the oppressed. His thoughts are ever with the poor, and it is all the more notable that in recent years he himself at least has been removed from the pinch of absolute need. Among the townsmen of Cardiff I know of no one who is more entitled to be regarded as a Notable Man. He is well-informed on all commercial matters, and his views

thereon may always be taken as accurate and just, and the United States Government is to be congratulated on having a consul of so much astuteness and ability in Cardiff. He has during his present residence amongst us endeared himself to many by his true goodness of heart, and of his kindly deeds I might say in the words of sacred print: "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, ye have done it unto Me." In all the relations of life Mr. Phillips is a fine-tempered, right-acting man, and our local society is much the better for him. His way at times, as doubtless it has often done, may seem dark and dreary, but he is one of those who, fired by noble ambition and living in the true faith, will always emerge where the sun shines. Major Jones, his predecessor, a much less spirited man, held the position

of U.S. Consul for over twenty years, and I hope that Mr. Phillips, in the increasing confidence of his Government, will do likewise. In conclusion I would say, in the words of Samuel Smiles:—"Men such as these are the true life-blood of the country to which they belong. They shed a glory over it by the example of the life and character which they bequeath."

Even the United States Government seldom takes a preacher straight from the pulpit to a Consulate appointment, but Mr. Phillips has justified the experiment, an experiment which I doubt not will be repeated. Mr. Phillips had exceptional claim for appointment. He was a well-known McKinleyite and a most persuasive speaker on the political platform. He delivered powerful and racy addresses in favour of McKinley in

the States of Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, Virginia and Tennessee; but it was in the State of Kentucky where his great strength was felt. He spoke no less than one hundred and twenty-three times on behalf of McKinley, and in the end with a powerful magnetism he helped to carry that State for his party —a feat never before achieved. He was appointed to the Cardiff Consulate on July 17th, 1897, after passing the Civil Service Examination in Washington, and during his years in Cardiff has shown a fitness for commercial life and geniality in dealing with all classes of people that is very admirable, and which has made Mr. Phillips very much beloved. His position is a most responsible one, but Mr. Phillips is more than equal to the trust. He has had a hard battle through life, but his path has ever been upward.

President Roosevelt has shown his appreciation by continuing Consul Phillips in office.

It may be said of him :—

"He makes by force his merit known
And lives to clutch the Golden Keys,
To mould a Mighty State's decrees
And shape the whisper of the throne."

I have found Mr. Phillips a most excellent man in every relation of life. He is unpretentious and cool-headed, and is always equal to every occasion. In whatever position he is placed, his heart will manifest itself as his supremest virtue.

M. ROBERTS-JONES, ESQ.

CHAPTER X.

M. ROBERTS-JONES, Esq.

Mr. M. Roberts-Jones is the senior member in the firm of Messrs. Roberts-Jones & Everett, the well-known Cardiff solicitors. Mr. Roberts-Jones has, by rare tact and exceptional ability, made for himself hosts of friends. His cordiality and courteous good nature, and that magnetic gift which he possesses so largely, draw all men to him; while his integrity and high character secure him the respect and admiration of all classes of society. He is a man of great force of character, and usually succeeds in whatever he undertakes; not that he unduly enforces his opinions on anyone, but he puts them forward with such

irresistible fascination that few can resist the charm of their spell.

Mr. Roberts-Jones has had an upward but up-hill battle to fight through life. At one time a member of the Civil Service, he, by his own unaided efforts, prepared himself for the position of barrister-at-law, to which he was called by Grays Inn in 1888. He practised on the South Wales Circuit successfully for a number of years, but finding his duties as Coroner for South Monmouthshire interfered with his other professional work, he relinquished his position at the Bar, and passed the necessary examination as a solicitor. He is now, in conjunction with Mr. Everett, practising that branch of his profession with much success in Cardiff. He is regarded as one of the leading if not *the* leading—solicitor in the town on all Friendly

Society questions and trade disputes. When he was a candidate for the South Monmouthshire Coronership he was finally elected to the position without a single opposing vote.

Mr. Roberts-Jones is a man with a clear head and a warm heart, and in the days which are to come he will be—if he is not already—one of our most influential and trusted citizens. There is no abuse too great for him to tackle, but he conducts his onslaught with the genial discrimination that captivates all hearts and carries his points. He has a strong and persuasive personality, admirable control of temper, rare courage, and dauntless enterprise. He has splendid ambition, and is a public speaker of much humour and convincing power.

Ten years ago, when Mr. Roberts-Jones took up his residence in Cardiff, it will be

remembered by those interested in our higher education what splendid and aggressive service he rendered as organizing secretary to the College Building Fund, when, chiefly by his efforts, the public subscribed £20,000, which induced the Treasury to give a like sum, and the Drapers' Company made a further grant of £10,000. In all educational and other reforms in South Wales for the last twenty years Mr. Roberts-Jones has been a leading and guiding spirit. He is a man of much enterprise and wonderful tact, with an amazing capacity for work. This is his safety-valve. It has enabled him to compose a very large number of legal hand-books on a variety of abstruse subjects. These books are all written in a popular literary style; and, as I have read most of them myself, I can speak of their good qualities and

real charm. By this means he has thrown a flood of life upon the Acts he has expounded. His hand-book on the "Workmen's Compensation Act" is a clear and lucid explanation of the subject; and his little book on "How to make a will" is simply invaluable. What could surpass his hand-book on "The Law and Practice of Friendly Societies"? in the preparation of which he had the benefit of Mr. Evan Owen, J.P.'s wide, practical knowledge. Mr. Roberts-Jones has also published a clever "Hand-book on the Marriage Act, 1898," rendered necessary by changes in the marriage law. In the preparation of this book he had the invaluable help of Principal Edwards, of the Baptist College, Cardiff. Mr. Roberts-Jones has also published a "Magistrates' Manual," and an exposition of "The Small Dwellings Acquisition

Act of 1899," which, to the large class interested, has been of exceptional value. His treatise on the new Licensing Act is now in its second edition ; and his last work, on "The Education Act, 1902," which I have just been reading, is really a text-book of great value to all who are interested in our educational arrangements, and it clearly foreshadows talents of the author that must yet be recognised in the senate of the nation. I hope the day is not far distant when by one of our constituencies Mr. Roberts-Jones will be called on to become its representative. In this capacity I am sure he will do excellent work, for he has all the qualities that go to make a popular M.P. By his natural resource and genial *bonhomie* he will compare favourably with most of the present Welsh Parliamentary representatives: while by his informa-

tion and natural gifts there are but few Welsh M.P.'s who can compare with him.

He has a genial, frank, open face, of much humour, and shows talents which as yet few have realized. I doubt not he will soon retain the full confidence of the public, and become one of our most trusted men. For he is a man to be trusted.

During the fifteen years I have known Mr. Roberts-Jones he has proved himself thoroughly trustworthy of the fullest confidence. This should be a great help to him in his professional work, for in addition to his genial uprightness and integrity of character he has a full technical knowledge of the profession such as few, at least in Cardiff, have. In addition to his large professional knowledge, he has a goodness of heart which should endear him to all, and by the wise

use of his excellent talents he will come to the very forefront of public life and show himself to be one of those leaders of men in whom we can all trust. He has worked hard and has gained many triumphs, and has shown that

"The heights by great men reached and kept
Were not attained by sudden flight,
But they, while their companions slept,
Were toiling upwards through the night."

I have confidence in Mr. Roberts-Jones and wish him a hearty God-speed.

COUNCILLOR W. G. BLOW

CHAPTER XI.

COUNCILLOR WALTER G. BLOW.

COUNCILLOR BLOW will soon find that the constant bungling of our Corporation is chiefly financial ; and if he can restore our financial management to a sound economical basis he will have done a work that will evoke, as it deserves, universal praise. The financial reform of our Corporation methods is a bold dream which many of our Councillors have from time to time cherished, but hitherto all who have tried their hand on it have failed most disastrously. It is our fervent hope that such will not be the result of Councillor Blow's expected efforts. He brings to the work talents and qualifications such as few Councillors

possess, and if his abilities are judiciously applied, which we are sure they will be, his efforts are bound to triumph.

His career hitherto, though seemingly quiet and uneventful, has got in it a history full of endeavour and manifold triumph; and all through his commercial years he has, while being full of push and energy in all his enterprises, made an enemy of no one. At the Docks there is no man who is spoken of with greater respect. This is not alone due to his high talents and commercial integrity, but due also to that splendid magnetism which he possesses so largely and uses with unfailing effect. For in Councillor Blow it is the heart that is his main factor. To his heart as much as to his head is due that unfailing and intrepid resource which makes him such a master among men. A man of great

mental gifts, with a keen, alert, and well-cultured mind, he is bound to make his mark in the world, and to make his way by the free use of his social gifts, which are of a rare and exceptional order. These talents, I may say, are a family possession, having been possessed and practised by his father and grandfather before him. Mr. Councillor Blow's father is still cherished by the Loudoun Square Circuit, of which he was for a long time a very active member, and lived in that district a life of much religious energy and consistency. Councillor Blow is also—following in the steps of his sires—a member of the Wesleyan Connexion, and has much of the gentle force of that active and aggressive denomination. It may be said that of all his many admirable qualities the largeness

of his heart is the most conspicuous. It is much to be able to say of an active business man at our Docks that the qualities of his heart, having been often tried in the storm and stress of life, have never been found wanting. No matter to whom you mention the name of Councillor Blow at the Cardiff Docks, all speak of his splendid talents, his commercial honour, and the graces of his heart in the same spirit of unqualified praise. In his business of stockbroker his rare instinctive commercial gifts must be an immense advantage to his large and rapidly increasing *clientèle*.

He has an extensive commercial knowledge. He is a director of the Cardiff Channel Dry Docks and Pontoon Co., Limited, and of the Victoria Dry Docks Co., Limited, Swansea; a director

of the Barry Central Marine Engineering Co., Limited, and of the South Western Hotel, Padstow, the Dunraven Hotel, Southerndown, the Jersey Beach Hotel, the Metropole Hotel, Minehead, the Minehead Land Co., and the Minehead Pier Company. He was likewise one of the promotors of the Cardiff Channel Dry Docks, and, as manager of the Company, he for some years piloted the concern through its most trying time. He also promoted the Victoria Dry Docks and the Barry Central Marine Engineering Co., and was one of the promoters of the Barry New Dry Docks scheme, which, as is well known, is a vast enterprise, and is being anxiously awaited by Barry tradesmen, and many other local enterprises of large dimensions. In all these trying relations he has maintained his high

character, and worn the white flower of a blameless life. The same can be said of Councillor Blow in all the affairs of life; for he is a devoted husband and affectionate father, and will, I opine, follow up to splendid success his career as a Town Councillor, which he has begun with so much promise. He sits on the Finance, Watch, Property and Market Committees of the Corporation, and finds on these Committees plenty of work for his exhaustless energies. But we are expecting great municipal work from a man with such numerous accomplishments, and we trust we may not be disappointed, but as yet he has not had time to redeem his election promises, though on the Council Board his voice is already one which commands the respectful attention of the old members.

But I had set myself the task, if it were possible, of placing Mr. Councillor Blow before my readers as he really is. I should have liked to have written of him so that all men would at once recognise the sketch and say "That is he."

Councillor Blow is a man who has worked hard on the upward path of life, and all the battles he has had to fight, and they have been many, have only sweetened and beautified a naturally admirable and lovable nature.

He is gentle and vigorous in all he does, carrying his point more by magnetic power than by seeming intellectual superiority; but for all that, he is a man of fine intellectual fibre, which is second only to his great powers of heart, which are sufficient to make any man remarkable. It is from the heart more than

the head that the greatest victories of life have come, as anyone will see who cares to read life's records in the light of day. I am hopeful that the splendid work Councillor Blow has already achieved in the commercial world will be more than repeated in the interests of the ratepayers.

CHAPTER XII.

CHARLES RADCLIFFE, Esq.

THERE are few commercial men at the Cardiff Docks of a more kindly and genial nature, or who are held in higher regard, than Mr. Charles Radcliffe.

Mr. Charles Radcliffe is managing director of the Tydfil Engineering Works; he is also head of the firm of Charles Radcliffe & Co., one of the youngest and most successful shipowning firms at the Docks, and one which we believe has a bright future before it. He has not yet reached the prime of life, though he has already shown the possession of indispensable commercial gifts; close observation, a clear, cool head, goodness of heart, and a most pleasant agreeable manner;

indeed, there is no more sweet-mannered, better-liked commercial man at our Docks, or one who has shown that in the midst of all his kindly geniality he has a great commercial future before him, and that he is likely before many years are over to establish himself in a strong position as one of our masters of commerce. I doubt if there is a better-liked, more open-hearted, genial-mannered, public-spirited man at our Docks, or one who by his refined force of character gives greater promise of a successful and prosperous career.

He is a native of Merthyr Tydfil—that home of so many excellent men—and was trained for business under the Board of Trade, where for some time he remained and did good work; but at length, feeling the need of a free hand and greater scope for his talents, he

resigned his Board of Trade appointment, and so far he has been more than justified in his action. Nothing will mildew in his hands; he is so largely endowed with those gifts of heart and head which have never failed in the world's successful enterprises. There are many clever and successful men at the Cardiff Docks, but none who, viewed rightly, is more to be envied than Mr. Charles Radcliffe. His speculations thrive, and all his employees are contented and happy in their various positions. Mr. Radcliffe has in him the spirit of true democracy, which he has the courage to practise in all his relations. From this course of action he weaves around him a happy atmosphere congenial to all who come in contact with him. In this way he makes the world healthy and happy for himself to

live in, surrounding himself, as he does, with the strongest and most enduring forces of nature.

Mr. Charles Radcliffe, as I have said, is a Merthyr boy, and belongs to that successful band of men whose achievements in the world of literature, science, art, action and commerce, have cast a halo of glory around the name of Merthyr. He is one of a trio of brothers whose names, each in his own way, have made a mark in the commercial world. Mr. Charles is the youngest of the three brothers, and has the largest amount of that natural, easy *bonhomie* so essential to success in public as well as private life. His genial, hearty smile and never-failing good-will are proverbial, and largely responsible for his immediate success in life. But it must not be inferred, though I have shown him to be

a man of great heart-gifts, that Mr. Charles Radcliffe is devoid of those strong and keen qualities of the head which are supposed to play so great a part in the regulation of the success of life. By no means. In shrewd observation and all the finer forces of intellect he is well gifted; but the exercise of these enviable talents is regulated by that cordial good nature of which he is the happy possessor, and which are everywhere such a force in the world. In the factory and in the commercial office alike, they are always the greatest powers in life, and as this is really a heart trait it has probably given rise to the saying that the heart is greater than the head, and that it is to the heart we must look for all those triumphs which are of perennial value amongst us.

In his pastimes Mr. Charles Radcliffe

has a strong leaning towards music, and those who know him best tell much of his good deeds, and there are few more generous supporters of the divine art in the town than he.

Mr. Charles Radcliffe is also a keen lover of horseflesh, and is the possessor of several noted prize-winners wherever they have been exhibited. He is much interested in the breeding of hackneys, of which he possesses some of the best blood in the country.

Mr. Charles Radcliffe has frequently been mentioned as a suitable representative for our Borough Council, and if he were to accept nomination he would soon be elected, for there is no more free-hearted and popular man in the town. It may be that, following the patriotic example of Councillor Blow, he and others of our Docks merchants may

be persuaded, while still in the vigour and prime of life, to take their share in the management of the municipal affairs of the town. Should this come to pass we shall welcome it as a great democratic triumph, which always moves slowly.

I hope that, in the days to come, he will become as useful as he is already a successful citizen, and that he will, by his own enterprise and industry, maintain the traditions of the ancient borough of Cardiff, whose Council Chamber has faithfully reflected the character of her citizens.

CHAPTER XIII.

JAMES HERBERT CORY, Esq., J.P.

Mr. James Herbert Cory is a notable man. He is a member of the well-known firm of Cardiff shipowners, Messrs. John Cory & Sons, Ltd. It is a little more than a quarter of a century since this firm was started, yet in this comparatively short time it has attained foremost rank in the mercantile marine, of which the British Empire is justly proud. The firm was originally founded by the late Mr. John Cory, of Padstow, who, with his two sons John and Herbert, made their fleet one of the largest and best equipped in the West of England ports.

Not only is Messrs. John Cory & Sons

a great firm of shipowners, it is also one of the largest firms of coal exporters and iron-ore importers in the Principality. The vessels of this firm carry a very large proportion of the products of the Welsh collieries to all parts of the world.

Mr. J. Herbert Cory, who is one of the members of this firm, was one of the promoters of the Cardiff Dry Dock and Pontoon Company. The rapid success of this concern owes much to his genial cordiality and commanding position in the commercial world. He is one of Fortune's favourites—a man born to success. Of him I would say:—

"Honour and worth from no condition rise,
Act well your part, therein the honour lies."

Mr. Herbert Cory has all the qualities which give a commercial man a foremost

place in the public mind, and there is no position in the public life of Cardiff to which he might not successfully aspire. He holds, as few do, the confidence, popularity, and goodwill of the public. For six years he rendered valued service as one of the members for the South Ward on the Town Council. A few years ago his name was placed on the Commission of the Peace for the Borough of Cardiff, and in that capacity there is no member of our "great unpaid" who has done a better, more considerate, and humane work. He has mixed all his work with mercy, seeming to realize that generosity is greater than justice. He is Chairman of the Cardiff Conservative Association, and in that exacting position he will find ample scope for his many and varied talents. It is a position in which his beautiful

gifts will shine to advantage. There is nothing cold or harsh in his nature, but luminous cordiality, warmth, and generosity, a fulness of information on all every-day subjects, and a quickness at reading character.

I should like to say of him that he is one of the most large-hearted, humane-spirited, and broad-minded men in the county of Glamorgan. There is no humane or philanthropic object to which he is not an ever ready and liberal contributor. And the largeness of his mind leads him to take a broad and generous view of all appeals. In him the sympathies of the heart rule the impulses of the mind. And this is well, for it is to the heart that we can ascribe those memorable deeds in the world's history of which we are all proud, and which have done such a splendid service to our

race. Nothing great, splendid, or enduring has come from the head, but all from the heart of man. That is the secret spring of all that is noble within us.

Mr. Herbert Cory is one of those men who, in addition to his heart gifts, has a splendid commercial faculty, which, as all who know him are aware, he has turned to great advantage; and I trust the day is not far distant when he will be the Conservative candidate for Cardiff. I doubt not he will have great influence in the ballot-box, for when he was a member of the Town Council his power of polling votes was marvellous; he was always able to completely defeat every one who came against him.

Mr. Herbert Cory has the rare power of inspiring confidence in all, and to this sovereign gift is doubtless to be attributed the splendid success of all his

undertakings. Everything he touches turns out well. He is a bright-hearted man, who longs for the throb of life. He is not afraid of hard work when occasion requires, and that is well, for

"In all labour there is profit."

But it is in deeds of kindness and mercy that he takes his chief delight. It may be said of Mr. Herbert Cory that in all his vast commercial transactions his heart is ever with the poor.

Whether as a member of the Borough Council, a member of the Commission of the Peace, or Chairman of the Conservative Association, he has discharged his work with great ability, winning goodwill in every circle in which he moves. He has the art of popularizing every scheme he touches. Though he lays no special claim to goodness, his deeds of

practical charity are of infinitely greater value than mere words, and speak for themselves.

Mr. Herbert Cory, who is approaching the prime of life, is a man of commanding appearance ; to look on his well-favoured, genial face tells you that he is a man of great heart-gifts. Happy he ! There is no honour he may not attain. He has ample wealth, and the ability and the opportunity of greatly adding thereto. He has the faculty of wisely managing the seamen whom he controls in a harmonious way, and there is rarely any conflict with his firm. A labour dispute is a thing unknown with Messrs. John Cory & Sons. With the whole seafaring world the name of that firm stands very high ; and justly so, for the kindly treatment chiefly inspired by Mr. Herbert Cory, and meted out to the

employees, deserves to be highly commended.

It is the wish of the public that Mr. Herbert Cory may have a happy, peaceful, and long life, fruitful of good deeds; and it is the earnest hope of all that he may yet be crowned with the highest honours to which any man can aspire.

In bidding farewell to this good citizen we may say as the poet said:—"Kind hearts are more than coronets."

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